

Incentive payments

- ▶ Signing Incentive Payments of up to \$100 per acre.
- ▶ Producers will receive annual payments for the length of the contract (10 years). The annual payment is a weighted average of the county rental rate for individual soils, plus practice maintenance (\$5 per acre per year).
- ▶ Cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent of the eligible reimbursable practice costs.
- ▶ Practice Incentive Payments of up to 40 percent of the eligible establishment cost.



Sign-up

Program sign-up will run on a continuous basis (meaning eligible land may be enrolled at any time) until the state's 9,300 acres have been enrolled, or December 31, 2007, whichever comes first. Eligible acres are automatically accepted instead of being competitively ranked as in the general Conservation Reserve Program.

Information

Additional information on the Conservation Reserve Program Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative is available at your local USDA Farm Services Agency office and on the FSA Web site at www.fsa.usda.gov or on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Web site at www.state.tn.us/twra/wildlife/habitatmgmt.

Assistance

A wildlife conservation plan must be developed for this practice. Technical assistance to develop this plan should be provided early in the process by a qualified wildlife biologist. Technical assistance is available from the following sources:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

West TN - Mike Hansbrough, 731.668.0700, ext. 112

Middle TN - Chris Wolkonowski, 615.893.9295, ext. 112

East TN - Robin Mayberry, 865.523.3338, ext. 113

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Mark Gudlin, 615.781.6614

University of Tennessee

Craig Harper, 865.974.7346

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

Mike Butler, 615.353.1133, ext. 13

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Brad Bingham, 931.528.6481, ext. 205

A complete list of other eligible technical assistance providers can be found at techreg.usda.gov



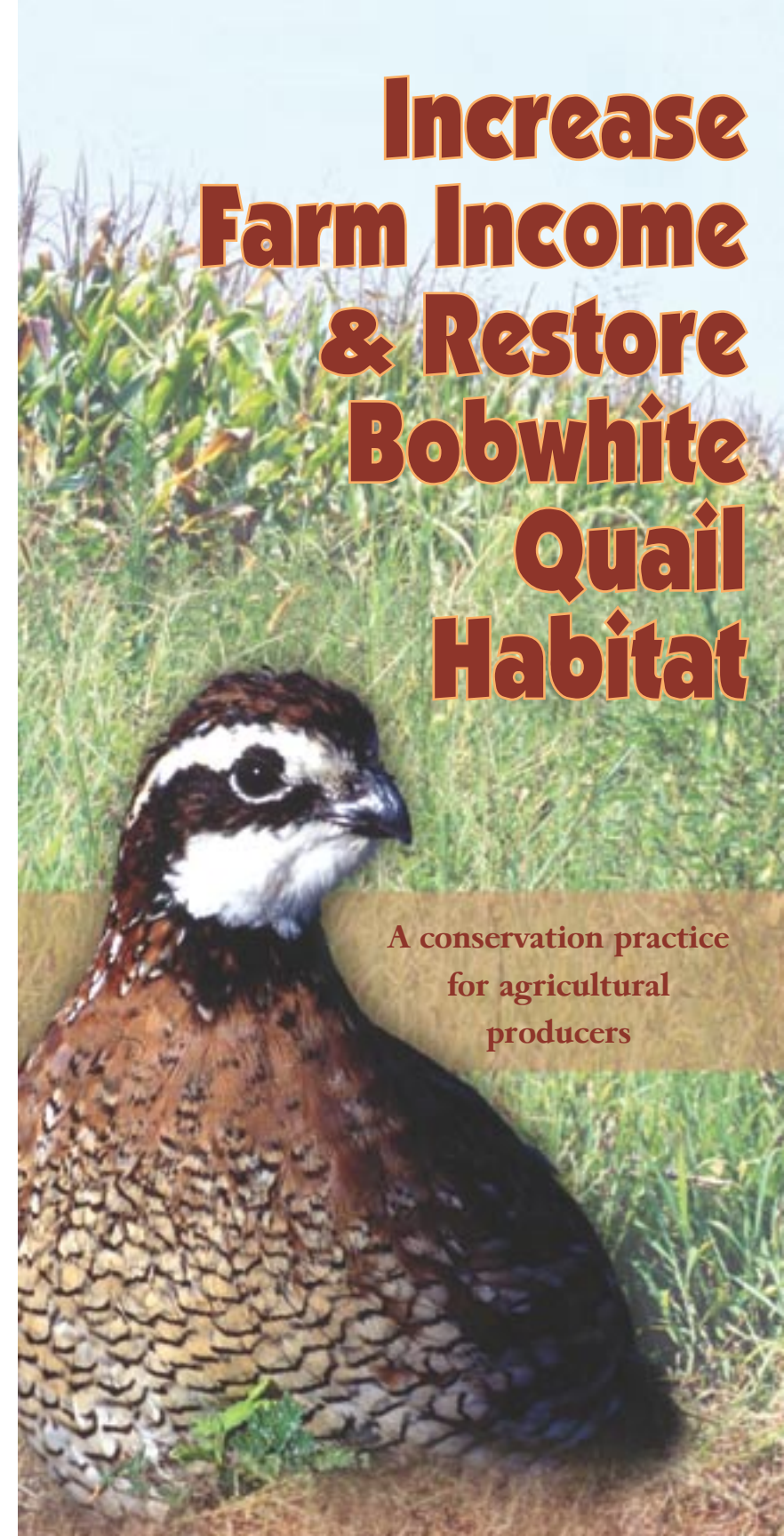
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Photographs by Wes Burger, Stephen Dinsmore, Fred Faulk,
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Increase Farm Income & Restore Bobwhite Quail Habitat

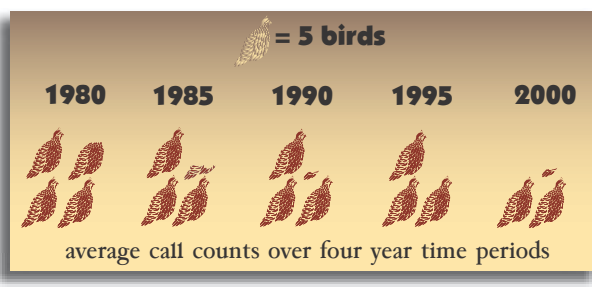
A conservation practice
for agricultural
producers





Habitat Initiative

Throughout their range, bobwhite populations have declined from an estimated 59-million birds in 1980 to about 20 million in 1999. Their habitats are disappearing due to urbanization, loss of native grasslands, intensive agriculture, and a transitioning of once grassy fields into forests.



Reverse the Trend by Creating New Habitat

250,000 acres
35 states

In late 2004, the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency introduced a new conservation practice under the continuous Conservation Reserve Program intended to create 250,000 acres of habitat for the northern bobwhite quail in 35 states. The Northern Bobwhite Quail Habitat Initiative introduces a conservation practice of early successional native grass buffers along agricultural field margins.

Conservation Practice

This new conservation practice, CP 33: Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds, provides food and cover for bobwhite quail in cropland areas. The practice must be applied around field edges of eligible cropland. The practice involves natural regeneration of native grasses and forbs or planting of native warm-season grasses, legumes, forbs, and limited shrub and tree plantings. Plantings will be specified in the program participant's approved USDA conservation plan.

Buffers long have been regarded for reducing soil erosion and protecting water quality by trapping sediments, nutrients and agrichemicals. Research has demonstrated that native grass buffers provide needed habitat for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, grassland songbirds, reptiles and amphibians, and also benefit aquatic species. Many of the species benefited are regionally declining and of special conservation concern.

Buffers not only provide food and cover for bobwhite quail and grassland songbirds but also reduce soil erosion from wind and water, increase soil and water quality, and protect and enhance the on-farm ecosystem.



Eligibility

The initiative is limited to 250,000 acres in 35 states with geographic areas that have the greatest potential to restore bobwhite quail. Of these 250,000 acres, Tennessee has been allocated 9,300 acres. To be eligible, cropland must be suitably located and adaptable to the establishment of bobwhite quail. In addition, the applicant must satisfy the basic eligibility and cropping history criteria for the Conservation Reserve Program. Cropland does not need to be classified as highly erodible, but must have been cropped at least four out of six years (1996-2001). To determine individual eligibility for this practice, landowners should check with their local Farm Service Agency office. Wildlife biologists listed on the back of this publication can assist with development of a conservation plan that meets landowner wildlife objectives.

CP 33: Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds

- **Automatic enrollment of eligible acres - no competitive ranking.**
- **Enroll the least productive areas of your crop fields.**
- **Buffer one, two, or all sides of your fields. Leave out sides you need to continue cropping or use for field roads or turn rows.**
- **Straighten out irregular field edges.**
- **Reduce soil erosion.**
- **Provide habitat for bobwhite quail and other wildlife.**